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Renata Hesse  
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Dear Ms. Hesse:

For many months, I have carefully followed the progress of the U.S. government's lawsuit against Microsoft Corporation. As a business consultant and active community volunteer, I work with a broad range of businesses and organizations that depend heavily on computer hardware and software. I have seen first-hand the importance of affordable and usable technology.

Microsoft clearly has been an aggressive competitor in the marketplace. But Microsoft's products and services have made an invaluable contribution to the growth and success of many small businesses and organizations. It appears that the proposed consent decree in this matter strikes the proper balance between punishing Microsoft and providing remedies for computer manufacturers, Microsoft's competitors, IT providers and – most important of all – business and residential end-users.

It does not help Microsoft, its customers or our economy to continue this costly and time-consuming legislation. Our nation faces a security crisis and an economic crisis, and it is time to put all of our efforts to meeting these two challenges. A settlement in this matter now would be a blessing to all concerned.

I am pleased that North Carolina's Attorney General, Roy Cooper, saw fit to agree to the settlement that had been negotiated. He is a leader of rare intelligence and integrity, and I have great confidence in his judgment.

I hope that the presiding judge in this matter will bring it to a quick close.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

